

"And still, of all the problems we face, the situation in the Angara region, near the site of construction of the Boguchanskaya hydroelectric power station, stands out in particular," notes S. Gaitin, docent of the Krasnoyarsk Agricultural Institute and Chairman of the public environmental council, in his opening remarks to a session of the council. "The stream of protest letters against the latest 'construction project of the century' to krai and central newspapers and to the parliaments of Russia and the Soviet Union continues to grow. It's as if we have a dead-end situation developing..."

"It's already developed," remarked V. Magdalina, first deputy chairman of the krai committee on nature protection, in responding to Mr. Gaitin's words. And she spoke about the endless bureaucratic intrigues aimed at preventing an independent State environmental and economic review of the Angara Basin from being held.

In spite of the personal mandate of USSR President M.S. Gorbachev to clarify the situation, the picture has become even more clouded. And the following declaration, from the USSR Supreme Soviet's resolution on urgent measures to heal the country's environment also turned out to be a dud: "Beginning in 1990, to open the financing of work on all projects and programs only after a positive finding by a State environmental review panels..." The fact of the matter is that the builders of the Boguchanskaya power station received tens of millions of rubles without any interference, while the S.Ya. Zhuk Institute for Planning, Surveying and Scientific Research ("Gidroproekt") hasn't gotten past the state of thinking about an environmental assessment for the project. A program of study is slated to be completed by 1992, and only then, as a letter from the RSFSR State Committee for the Environment (Goskompriroda) makes clear, "will a decision be made regarding the advisability of conducting an environmental review of the Boguchanskaya power station project."

A. Troitskii, deputy chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee Gosplan, in his response to an inquiry from RSFSR People's Deputy G. Akhmedzyanov, offered assurances, saying that in August 1990 the USSR Ministry of Energy was supposed to present documents concerning a plan